



# Beneficiary Nomination

For Public School Employees

MEMBER'S NAME (LAST, FIRST, M.I.)	DATE OF BIRTH	MEMBER ID OR SSN
MAILING ADDRESS	CURRENT EMPLOYER	HOME PHONE NUMBER (     )
CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE	MARITAL STATUS: <input type="checkbox"/> SINGLE <input type="checkbox"/> MARRIED <input type="checkbox"/> DIVORCED	

While you are *actively employed* in a Michigan public school, if a survivor pension benefit is payable upon your death, a default provision of the retirement act automatically provides a lifetime monthly survivor benefit to your spouse, or if not married, to your unmarried children until age 18. If you previously named a pension beneficiary and wish to select this default provision, mark the box in Section I below or go to [www.michigan.gov/orsmiaccount](http://www.michigan.gov/orsmiaccount) to change it. Or you can name **one** other eligible beneficiary (adult child, parent, brother, or sister) to receive a survivor pension as long as he or she remains dependent on you.

Once vested, if you leave public school employment before retiring, **before your employment termination date** you must have a valid beneficiary nomination form on file with ORS naming an eligible survivor pension beneficiary (the default provision does not apply while you are in deferred status). If no form is on file, no monthly survivor pension is payable. If no beneficiary is named, survivors receive a refund of any personal contributions on deposit.

### Section I: Beneficiaries: Complete BOTH the survivor and refund beneficiary designations. (See instructions.)

**SURVIVOR PENSION BENEFICIARY**—Choose the default provision by checking Box A below; **OR** nominate **one** survivor pension beneficiary using Box B. **To name someone other than your spouse, he/she must be eligible (see the back), and your spouse must waive pension benefits by signing below.** Monthly pension and insurance benefits are paid to your pension beneficiary as long as he or she remains dependent. Your spouse is considered dependent for life.

A. <input type="checkbox"/> I wish to have the default provision of the retirement act determine who will receive my survivor pension benefits. (Note: do <b>not</b> select the default provision if you are terminating employment; complete Box B instead.)		
B. <input type="checkbox"/> I wish to name the following pension beneficiary. (LAST NAME, FIRST NAME, M.I.)		BENEFICIARY'S SSN
RELATIONSHIP TO MEMBER: (CHECK ONE) <input type="checkbox"/> SPOUSE <input type="checkbox"/> CHILD <input type="checkbox"/> BROTHER <input type="checkbox"/> SISTER <input type="checkbox"/> PARENT		BIRTHDATE (MM/DD/YYYY)
SPOUSE'S NAME (WRITE "NONE" IF NOT MARRIED)	SPOUSE'S SIGNATURE (REQUIRED TO WAIVE BENEFITS)	DATE

**REFUND BENEFICIARY**—If you have no beneficiary eligible to receive a pension benefit, any refund beneficiaries named below will receive any accumulated personal contributions at your death. Anyone can be your refund beneficiary, including the person (if any) named above. Attach another sheet to name more than two refund beneficiaries.

REFUND BENEFICIARY NAME (LAST, FIRST, M.I.)	TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (SSN OR FEIN)
MAILING ADDRESS	CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE
REFUND BENEFICIARY NAME (LAST, FIRST, M.I.)	TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (SSN OR FEIN)
MAILING ADDRESS	CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE

### Section II: Signature

I understand the most current beneficiary nomination on record with ORS at the time of my death establishes the recipient of my survivor pension benefit or refund payment. I intend for this beneficiary nomination to supersede all previous filings with ORS. I further declare to the best of my knowledge that all statements and answers are complete and true.

MEMBER'S SIGNATURE	DATE
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**Mail to: ORS, P.O. Box 30171, Lansing, MI 48909-7671**



# When Should You Nominate or Change Your Beneficiaries?

## I am NOT VESTED. What should I do?

Survivors of active employees who are not vested (usually with less than 10 years of Michigan public school employment) are not eligible for a monthly survivor pension benefit except in the case of a duty death (see below). If you die before you become vested and have personal contributions on deposit, or you purchased service credit, these amounts are refundable to the refund beneficiary you name in Section I on this form. You can name anyone as a refund beneficiary and your spouse is not required to sign off rights.

- Until you are vested, your survivor pension beneficiary would receive a benefit only in case of a duty death.
- You can change your beneficiaries at any time; just go to miAccount at [www.michigan.gov/orsmiaccount](http://www.michigan.gov/orsmiaccount) and enter your new beneficiary information OR complete another beneficiary nomination form and send it to ORS. The new nominations will replace the old.

**NOTE:** If you do not designate a beneficiary with ORS, your personal contributions and accumulated interest may be distributed by probate court order.

## I AM VESTED. What should I do?

Once you are vested (usually after 10 years of Michigan public school service), your survivors may be eligible for a monthly survivor pension benefit and insurances if you die. If you do not name a pension beneficiary, the plan's default provision automatically provides a survivor pension to your spouse, if you are married. If you have no spouse but have minor children, each will receive a pension benefit until he/she turns 18, marries, or is adopted.

**If you previously filed a beneficiary nomination form and wish to return to the automatic default provision, check Box A in Section I on the front of this form or change it in miAccount.**

If you have no spouse or minor children, you must name an eligible dependent as your pension beneficiary on this form or through miAccount or no monthly pension benefit can be paid; instead your personal contributions and accumulated interest will be refunded. See *Who is an eligible pension beneficiary?*

**Refund of contributions.** If you die before retiring and no one is eligible for a monthly pension benefit, your personal contributions and interest will be refunded to the person(s) you have named as a refund beneficiary. If no one is named, it will go to your estate.

## What happens if my death is duty related?

If your death is duty related, whether you're vested or not, monthly pension and insurance benefits will be paid to your named survivor pension beneficiary. If no beneficiary is named or you select the default option and you are married, the retirement plan automatically provides a survivor pension to your spouse. If you have no spouse but have minor children, each one will receive a pension benefit until he/she turns 18, marries, or is adopted.

If you have no spouse or eligible children, your totally and permanently disabled adult child, parent, brother or sister who depends on you for more than 50 percent of his or her support can be named as pension beneficiary in the event of your *duty-related* death.

## Leaving employment? Preserve your benefits.

As a vested employee, if you leave before retiring, make sure you've designated a survivor pension beneficiary through miAccount or filed your form with ORS **while still actively**

**employed.** If you leave employment before meeting the age and service requirements to retire, you become a deferred member.

If you die while in deferred status, your eligible survivor pension beneficiary will receive monthly pension benefits **only if you named a pension beneficiary and had that designation on file with ORS before terminating employment.** Any monthly survivor pension benefit payable will begin when you would have become eligible to receive a monthly pension, usually the month following your 60th birthday. If no pension beneficiary is named before you leave employment, only a refund of contributions will be paid.

## Who is an eligible pension beneficiary?

Eligible monthly survivor pension beneficiaries include your spouse, minor child, or one of the following who is dependent on you for at least 50 percent of his or her personal support: your adult child, your brother or sister, or your parent. Your spouse can receive a lifetime monthly pension benefit; any other beneficiary will receive a monthly pension benefit only as long as he or she remains dependent on the income provided by the pension (minor children are presumed dependent until age 18).

## Can I change my beneficiary?

Once you file a beneficiary nomination, you can change your beneficiaries any time before retiring using miAccount or by completing this form. If you have a life change event (divorce, marriage, birth of a child, death of a beneficiary), you will want to change your beneficiary designation(s). If you are divorced, and your beneficiary was your spouse, you will want to change your beneficiary designation as the previous designation is automatically invalidated and the default provision will apply. Make sure you designate both a survivor pension beneficiary AND one or more refund beneficiaries since your revised designation will replace any previous beneficiary nominations.

## How do I name a trust, living will, estate, organization, or company to receive benefits?

Retirement law does not allow you to name a legal entity as a *pension beneficiary*—you can only name a specific, eligible person to receive a pension benefit. However, you may name a person *in care of, as the trustee of, or as the administrator of* a legal entity. For example, Sally Wilson can name her husband as her pension beneficiary using: "John Wilson, in care of the John and Sally Wilson joint trust." You can also name your child in care of your trust. Do not name yourself as the trustee or administrator of a living trust or living will.

You can name a trust, estate, organization, or company directly as a *refund beneficiary*. To do this, designate by person's name, the organization's trustee or company's executive, or successor, in care of that organization.

## File this form with ORS.

**Do not file this form with your benefit coordinator.** Mail it to ORS. Your beneficiary nominations are not valid until ORS receives this form or you make a change through miAccount.

**Keep a copy for your records.** If you have questions about this process, use the secure Message Board in miAccount. Log in at [www.michigan.gov/orsmiaccount](http://www.michigan.gov/orsmiaccount).

